

REMARKS

This is responsive to the Office Action mailed September 23, 2008. Included is a "Statement of the Substance of the Interview" as required under MPEP 713.04. In addition, a petition to extend the time for response by one month is included, together with the required fee.

Double Patenting

Claims 1, 3 - 5, 7, 9 - 11, 17, 22 - 27, and 29 stand rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 7 - 10 of U.S. Patent No. 6,757,952 in view of Bielagus et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,937,923.

Applicant's previous response indicated that a terminal disclaimer was included, based on the claims existing at that time. The terminal disclaimer was inadvertently omitted, however. It is not being supplied at this time because the rejected claims have all been cancelled, and so it is believed that the double patenting rejections have been rendered moot.

Section 102 Rejections

Claims 1, 5, 19, 27 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Bachmann, U.S. Patent No. 4,347,882 ("Bachmann"). All the rejected claims have been cancelled. Applicant acknowledges the allowability of cancelled claims 3 and 4, the substances of which are essentially set forth in new claims 36 and 37, respectively.

Claim 9 is rejected as being anticipated by Loth, U.S. Patent No. 6,561,885 ("Loth"). In view of the discussion summarized in the included "Statement of the Substance of the Interview," Claim 9 has been amended to recite the claimed shoulder bolts, and their relationship

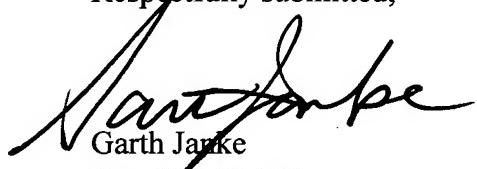
to the claimed base, more specifically. Disclosure supporting the amendment to claim 1 is found at Page 12, lines 6 - 21, with reference to Figure 13.

Section 103 Rejections

Claims 7, 20, and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bielagus et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,937,923 (“Bielagus”). Claim 7 has been cancelled. In view of the discussion summarized in the included “Statement of the Substance of the Interview,” Claims 20 and 21 have been amended to recite, respectively, the claimed interlocking and ramping portions more specifically.

As the Examiner has offered, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner call the undersigned to discuss the case further to the extent that amendments presented herein are considered insufficient to overcome the rejections.

Respectfully submitted,



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STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW

The undersigned spoke with the Examiner about the merits of this case by telephone on December 3, 2008. Applicant thanks the Examiner for her time.

Claim 9, and claims 20 and 21 were discussed. With regard to claim 9, the undersigned asserted that the Loth reference does not disclose shoulder bolts. The Examiner did not disagree, but requested that the claim be amended to more explicitly recite the distinguishing features of a shoulder bolt.

With regard to claims 20 and 21, which were discussed together, the undersigned reviewed the corresponding structure in the specification, and in particular explained that the important aspect of the ramping portions in claim 21 is not that the angle is about 5 degrees, but that they are ramped, so that the angle is not zero. The Examiner did not disagree, but asserted that it is possible to perceive that there are angles in Bielagus as claimed, and requested that each of these claims be amended to clarify the distinguishing features.